

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #34

Summer Announcement #31, District 1 Subsistence and Commercial Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 70,900 Chinook salmon through June 29 is well below the historical average of 106,600 for this date. Poor run sizes in recent years warrant continued caution as the 2013 Chinook salmon run progresses.

Based on current run assessment information, additional measures are being taken to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement. A reduced subsistence fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets is being allowed to target abundant summer chum salmon while avoiding Chinook salmon.

Fishermen in the Coastal District and District 1 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding the salmon fishing schedules.

Coastal District: The Coastal District has been further subdivided into two management areas to allow for more management precision and flexibility when altering the subsistence salmon fishing schedule to conserve Chinook salmon. Management actions taken in the northern portion of the Coastal District will be coordinated with actions taken in District 1 to provide protection to Chinook salmon prior to entering the river.

Subsistence salmon fishing in the northern portion of the Coastal District from 62 degrees North latitude to Point Romanof and 3 miles offshore, subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed.

Subsistence salmon fishing in the northern portion of the Coastal District will be open for a 12-hour period from 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 1, until 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 2, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size.

In the southern portion of the Coastal District, from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 62° North latitude, the current subsistence salmon fishing schedule remains unaltered and is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size.

District 1 Subsistence Gillnet Salmon Fishing: Subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets is currently closed. Effective 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 1, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for one 12-hour period from 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 1, until 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 2, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Subsistence fishermen using 6-inch or smaller mesh size may keep Chinook salmon for subsistence purposes.

District 1 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net: Commercial salmon fishing in District 1 will be open for one period with beach seine and dip net gear only. This will be a 12-hour commercial fishing period.

Period #14: 8:00 a.m. Monday, July 1, until 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 1

Subsistence fishing with these gear types will not be allowed during this commercial fishing period.

Commercial fishermen using dip nets or beach seine gear are required to immediately release Chinook salmon back to the water alive. Chinook salmon caught and released must be recorded on a fish ticket. In the event that a Chinook salmon is killed by these gear types, the dead Chinook salmon must be recorded on a fish ticket and forfeited to the state.

Beach seine mesh size is restricted to 4-inch or smaller. Beach seines must be set from the beach and hauled to the beach. Dip net mesh size is restricted to 4.5-inch or smaller. A commercial permit holder may operate up to four dip nets.

Fishermen have been in compliance with the regulations regarding new gear types. However, fishermen are reminded that the requirement to release Chinook salmon will be strictly enforced. Great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully.

During the subsistence salmon fishing closures, all gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 456-0418 or in Emmonak at 949-1825.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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